United Nations CED/CSP/2016/4

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

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Conference of the States Parties

Report of the Conference of the States Parties to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance on its first session, held on 19 December 2016

I. Introduction

1. The first session of the Conference of the States Parties to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 19 December 2016, was organized pursuant to article 27 of the Convention, which reads:

> A Conference of the States Parties will take place at the earliest four years and at the latest six years following the entry into force of this Convention to evaluate the functioning of the Committee and to decide, in accordance with the procedure described in article 44, paragraph 2, whether it is appropriate to transfer to another body — without excluding any possibility — the monitoring of this Convention, in accordance with the functions defined in articles 28 to 36.

2. The Conference held one meeting (see CED/CSP/SR.1).

II. Opening of the session

3. The session was opened by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

4. At the 1st meeting, the Conference elected the Co-Chairs and other officers, adopted the provisional agenda (CED/CSP/2016/1) and its provisional rules of procedure (CED/CSP/2016/3/Rev.1) and agreed on the organization of work of the session.

5. The Conference elected by acclamation the Permanent Representative of France, Elisabeth Laurin, and the Special Representative for Human Rights of Argentina, Leandro Despouy, as its Co-Chairs.

6. At the opening of the Conference, the meeting heard a statement by the Permanent Representative of France.

7. The Conference elected by acclamation the Permanent Representative of Albania, Filloreta Kodra, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan, Mitsuko Shino, and the Permanent Representative of Morocco, Mohamed Auajjar, as Vice-Chairs. Mr. Auajjar also acted as Rapporteur.

8. The following States parties participated in the session: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine and Uruguay.

III. Implementation of article 27 of the Convention

9. The Conference considered the note of the Secretary-General on the functioning of the Committee (CED/CSP/2016/2). The representatives of the following States parties made statements: France, Argentina, Peru, Spain, Greece, Colombia, Germany, Uruguay, Brazil, the Netherlands jointly with Belgium, Senegal, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Japan, Chile, Mali, Italy, Morocco, Ecuador, Armenia, Albania, Honduras, Montenegro and Gabon.

10. The Conference examined the functioning of the Committee and recognized that the Committee efficiently monitored the implementation of the Convention, in accordance with the functions defined in articles 28 to 36 of the Convention.

IV. Decisions adopted by the Conference of the States Parties

11. At its 1st meeting, under agenda item 6, the Conference adopted by consensus the following decisions:

Decision 1

The Conference of the States Parties to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance decides that the Committee on Enforced Disappearances continue to monitor the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in accordance with the functions defined in articles 28 to 36.

Decision 2

The Conference of the States Parties to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance decides to request the Secretary-General to transmit the report on its first session to all States parties.

V. Additional interventions

12. The Conference also heard statements from:

(a) A human rights mechanism: the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances;

(b) Intergovernmental organizations: the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions;

(c) Non-governmental organizations: Geneva for Human Rights, Madres de Plaza de Mayo, the North-East Dialogue Forum, the Irish Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Legal and Social Studies.

VI. Adoption of the report

13. The Rapporteur presented the draft procedural report on the first session of the Conference, which was adopted ad referendum.

VII. Closing of the session

14. At the closing of the session, the Conference heard a statement by the Special Representative for Human Rights of Argentina, who expressed the appreciation of both Co-Chairs to all States parties, observers, in particular organizations of families of victims, and to the Secretariat for the excellent cooperation and strong support in making the first session of the Conference a success.